

Conference Biographies

Dr Celia Clark www.celiacklark.co.uk

Since the 1980s, Dr Celia Clark has documented the transition of former defence sites to civilian uses in different parts of the world in articles and conference papers as well as taking an active part in defence heritage conservation campaigns. As an academic her MSc dissertation examined conservation, community and economic aspects of the transition process in four dockyard towns: Venice Arsenale, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham. In 2000 her report on differing futures for naval heritage across Europe was published by the University of the West of England. Her PhD thesis explored the unequal power relationships between the participants in these unusual land use transitions - in Gunwharf Portsmouth, Royal William Yard Plymouth and the Royal Gunpowder Works in Waltham Abbey Essex.

In 2016 her book, edited with Professor Samer Bageen: *Sustainable Regeneration of Former Defence Sites*, the first to examine a worldwide but under-reported process, was published by Routledge and launched in Governors Island New York. Case studies examine the many different routes ex-defence sites take to civilian life – in Taiwan, China, the Netherlands, the UK and the US, including a chapter on Brooklyn Navy Yard. In 2017 she was invited to speak at the international Military Landscapes conference organised by the University of Cagliari in La Maddalena naval base in Sardinia, and in 2018 to Icofort Oslo and to the final workshop of the EU Maps project (Military Areas as Public Spaces) in Serres Greece.

Resident in Portsmouth since 1970, she has seen at first hand the transformation of many Ministry of Defence sites related to the naval base. She is currently writing a book with Martin Marks OBE documenting this process. In 1973 she was a founder member and is now President of the Portsmouth Society. She has served as a board member of Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust since 1976. She was secretary of the Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Historical Society set up in 1982 to collect the civilian workers' tools, equipment, oral history and archives. She is a member of the executive committee of the international Naval Dockyards Society and contributes many articles to their newsletter.

Dr Cori Convertito, MA (Greenwich), Ph.D. (Exeter)

Dr Cori Convertito received her Ph.D. from the University of Exeter during which time she examined 'The Health of British Seamen in the West Indies, 1770-1806' which focused on British West Indies development and its influence on health and medicine in the Royal Navy. For her thesis, she was awarded The Boydell & Brewer Prize for the best doctoral thesis in maritime history in 2011–12. Prior to her attendance at Exeter, she obtained her Master's degree in Maritime History from the Greenwich Maritime Institute at the University of Greenwich in 2006 where she engaged in research for her dissertation entitled 'Tattooing in the Victorian Navy'. She has published several articles, including 'The Operations of the Trinity House Ballast Office in the late Eighteenth Century,' 'Mending the Sick and Wounded: The Development of Naval Hospitals in the West Indies 1740-1800,' and a forthcoming article entitled 'Portable Soup to Peruvian Bark: Medicinal Trials in the Royal Navy, 1750-1800'.

Cori has presented papers at a number of international conferences including the U.S. Naval Academy's McMullen Naval Historical Symposium, 'New Perspectives on Resources, War and Government, 1750–1815' at the University of Greenwich, 'Navy & Nation' at the National

Maritime Museum, UK and 'Health, Medicine and Mariners' at the University of Exeter as well as the British Maritime History Seminar at the Institute for Historical Research, UK.

At present, Cori is the Curator at the Key West Art & Historical Society which operates four distinct and inspired museums, as well as an adjunct instructor of American History and Humanities at Florida Keys Community College.

Roger Dence is an independent researcher with a life-long interest in maritime history and an MA in the History of War from King's College, London. Previously he worked in technical journalism, in public relations, marketing and management roles in high-technology fields, and in management education. His first degree was a BSc (London) in Physics and he holds an MSc (Surrey) in Training and Development.

Dr Ross Fair is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History at Ryerson University in Toronto, where he has received faculty- and university-level awards for his teaching. His academic interests focus on the settlement and state formation of colonial Upper Canada. He has written about the Pennsylvania-German migrants to Upper Canada and their integration into the colony, and he has recently completed a monograph that explores the ideology of improvement and the formation of the Upper Canadian state between 1792 and 1852. His next project will examine imperial and colonial efforts to encourage hemp cultivation in Upper and Lower Canada, ca.1780–1835. A public historian, Ross curated a major exhibition for the Archives of Ontario (2012–2014). "Perceptions of 1812: Identity, Diversity, Memory" re-examined the War of 1812 and local commemorations of the conflict. He is a vice president of the Ontario Historical Society's Board of Directors and served on Heritage Toronto's Board of Directors from 2011 to 2018.

Jonathan Greenland is an art historian, arts administrator, lecturer, author and a curator. He comes from Wales in the United Kingdom. He received his doctorate in art history from the University of Cambridge in England. Currently he is the Director of National Museum Jamaica. He is also acting Director of the National Gallery of Jamaica. Previously he was the museums consultant and curator at the Jamaica National Heritage Trust as well as a Senior Advisor to the Minister of Culture. He also worked at the Brooklyn Museum in New York City for 7 years and was a teacher in an alternative public high school in Manhattan for 'at risk' students.

Ian F. S. Stafford was a lawyer specialising in public and constitutional law. He also has a master's degree in Imperial History in which he specialised in the settlement colonies. As an independent scholar he has developed this study with an interest in colonial navies and British overseas naval bases. He has presented papers within this theme to a number of organisations and museums.